

(I)

wherein:

m is 1 or 2

each R¹ is independently hydroxy; (C₁₋₆) alkoxy optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkoxy, amino, piperidyl, guanidino or amidino optionally N-substituted by one or two (C₁₋₆)alkyl, acyl or (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl groups, NH₂CO, hydroxy, thiol, (C₁₋₆)alkylthio, heterocyclylthio, heterocyclioxy, arylthio, aryloxy, acylthio, acyloxy or (C₁₋

6)alkylsulphonyloxy; (C₁₋₆)alkoxy-substituted (C₁₋₆)alkyl; halogen; (C₁₋₆)alkyl; (C₁₋₆)alkylthio; nitro; azido; acyl; acyloxy; acylthio; (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl; (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphoxide; arylsulphonyl; arylsulphoxide or an amino, piperidyl, guanidino or amidino group optionally N-substituted by one or two (C₁₋₆)alkyl, acyl or (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl groups;

either R² is hydrogen; and

R³ is in the 2- or 3-position and is hydrogen or (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl optionally substituted with 1 to 3 groups selected from:

thiol; halogen; (C₁₋₆)alkylthio; trifluoromethyl; azido; (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl; (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl; hydroxy optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl or aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl; amino optionally mono- or disubstituted by (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl or aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl and optionally further substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; oxo; (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl; (C₂₋

6) alkenylsulphonyl; or aminosulphonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; or

R³ is in the 3-position and R² and R³ together are a divalent residue =CR^{5'}R^{6'} where R^{5'} and R^{6'} are independently selected from H, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl and aryl(C₂₋₆)alkenyl, any alkyl or alkenyl moiety being optionally substituted by 1 to 3 groups selected from those listed above for substituents on R³;

R⁴ is a group -CH₂-R⁵ in which R⁵ is selected from:

(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; hydroxy(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₁₋₁₂)alkoxy(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₁₋₁₂)alkanoyloxy(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; hydroxy-, (C₁₋₁₂)alkoxy- or (C₁₋₁₂)alkanoyloxy-(C₃₋₆)cycloalkyl(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; cyano(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₂₋₁₂)alkenyl; (C₂₋₁₂)alkynyl; tetrahydrofuryl; mono- or di-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylamino(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; acylamino(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; (C₁₋₁₂)alkyl- or acylaminocarbonyl(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; mono- or di-(C₁₋₁₂)alkylamino(hydroxy)(C₃₋₁₂)alkyl; optionally substituted phenyl(C₁₋₂)alkyl, phenoxy(C₁₋₂)alkyl or phenyl(hydroxy)(C₁₋₂)alkyl; optionally substituted diphenyl(C₁₋₂)alkyl; optionally substituted phenyl(C₂₋₃)alkenyl; optionally substituted benzoyl or benzoylmethyl; optionally substituted heteroaryl(C₁₋₂)alkyl; and optionally substituted heteroaroyl or heteroaroylmethyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

A is NR¹¹, O, S(O)_x or CR⁶R⁷ and B is NR¹¹, O, S(O)_x or CR⁸R⁹ where x is 0, 1 or 2 and wherein:

each of R⁶ and R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ is independently selected from: H; thiol; (C₁₋₆)alkylthio; halo; trifluoromethyl; azido; (C₁₋₆)alkyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenyl; (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl; (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl; hydroxy, amino or aminocarbonyl optionally substituted as for corresponding substituents in R³; (C₁₋₆)alkylsulphonyl; (C₂₋₆)alkenylsulphonyl; or (C₁₋₆)aminosulphonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₆)alkenyl;

or R⁶ and R⁸ together represent a bond and R⁷ and R⁹ are as above defined;

or R⁶ and R⁸ together represent -O- and R⁷ and R⁹ are both hydrogen;

or R⁶ and R⁷ or R⁸ and R⁹ together represent oxo;

and each R¹¹ is independently H, trifluoromethyl, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, (C₁₋₆)alkenyl, (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl wherein the amino group is optionally substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkylcarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkenyloxycarbonyl, (C₂₋₆)alkenylcarbonyl, (C₁₋₆)alkyl

or (C₁₋₆)alkenyl and optionally further substituted by (C₁₋₆)alkyl or (C₁₋₆)alkenyl;

provided that A and B cannot both be selected from NR¹, O and S(O)_x and when one of A and B is CO the other is not CO, O or S(O)_x.

18. A compound of formula (IA) which is a compound of formula (I) wherein R³ is hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl or 1,2-dihydroxy(C₂₋₆)alkyl optionally substituted on the hydroxy group(s).

19. A compound of formula (IB) which is a compound of formula (I) wherein at least one R¹ is (C₂₋₆) alkoxy substituted by optionally N-substituted amino, guanidino or amidino or C₁₋₆ alkoxy substituted by piperidyl, A is CH₂, CHOH, CH(NH₃), C(Me)(OH) or CH(Me) and B is CH₂, CHOH or CO.

20. A method according to claim 17 wherein R¹ is in the 6-position on the quinoline nucleus and is methoxy, amino(C₃₋₅)alkyloxy, nitro or fluoro and m is 1.

21. A method according to claim 17 or 20 wherein R³ is (C₁₋₆) alkyl, (C₁₋₆) alkenyl, optionally substituted 1-hydroxy-(C₁₋₆) alkyl.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein R³ is hydroxymethyl, 1-hydroxyethyl or 1,2-dihydroxyethyl wherein the 2-hydroxy group is optionally substituted with alkylcarbonyl or aminocarbonyl where the amino group is optionally substituted.

23. A method according to claim 17 wherein R³ is in the 3-position.

24. A method according to claim 17 wherein A is NH, NCH₃, O, CH₂, CHOH, CH(NH₃), C(Me)(OH) or CH(Me) and B is CH₂, CHOH, CO or S or A is CR⁶R⁷ and B CR⁸R⁹ and R⁶ and R⁸ together represent -O- and R⁷ and R⁹ are both hydrogen, and n is 0 or 1.

25. A method according to claim 24 wherein:

A is NH, B is CO and n is 1 or 0;

A is O, B is CH₂ and n is 1 or 0;

A is CH₂ or CH₂OH, B is CH₂, and n is 1 or 0;

A is NCH₃, CH(NH₃), C(Me)(OH) or CH(Me), B is CH₂ and n is 1

A is CR⁶R⁷ and B CR⁸R⁹ and R⁶ and R⁸ together represent -O- and R⁷ and R⁹ are both hydrogen and n is 1.

26. A method according to claim 17 wherein R^4 is (C_{5-10}) alkyl, unsubstituted phenyl (C_{2-3}) alkyl or unsubstituted phenyl (C_{3-4}) alkenyl.
27. A method according to claim 17 wherein R^5 is unbranched at the α and, where appropriate, β positions.
28. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 17 selected from:
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-hexyl-4-[3-oxo-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-hexyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-oxo-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-octyl-4-[3-oxo-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-octyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-decyl-4-[3-oxo-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-decyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-dodecyl-4-[3-oxo-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-dodecyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-cinnamyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-hydroxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-[5-phthalimidopentyloxy]-quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-[5-aminopentyloxy]-quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;

[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-[2-Amino-2-oxo-1,1-dimethyl]ethoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-[2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionamido]quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-aminoquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-azidoquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-hydroxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-propyloxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(5-Phthalimidopentyloxy)-quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(5-aminopentyloxy)-quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-(2-*t*-butyloxycarbonylaminoethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-(2-phenoxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-(4-ethylbenzyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3S,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(2-acetoxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(3-hydroxypropyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(1-hydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-(3-phenylpropyl)-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
Heptyl-4-[2-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
1-Heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)prop-2-enyl]piperidine;
1-Heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)butyl]piperidine;

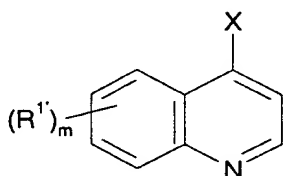
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-azido-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-amino-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-(3-(R,S)-amino-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl)piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)butyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-(3-(R,S)-acetamido-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl)piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(2-(R,S)-Hydroxypropyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(1-(R,S),2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-aminocarbonyloxyethyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethylloxycarbonylaminocarbonyloxyethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-(1-(R,S)-2-Dihydroxyethyl)-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[(6-methoxyquinolinyl-4-oxy)methyl]piperidine;
[3R,4S]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[2-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)-oxyethyl]piperidine;
1-Heptyl-4-[(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)oxymethyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)methylthiomethyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-ethenyl-4-[(6-methoxyquinoline-4-yl)carbonylamino]methyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-piperidine-4-[N-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)]propionamide;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-piperidine-4-[N-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)]propylamine;
[3R,4S]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-piperidine-4-[N-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)]acetamide;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-piperidine-4-[N-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)]ethylamine;
[3R,4S]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[2-(R,S)-hydroxy-2-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)ethyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[2-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)ethyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[2-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)ethyl]piperidine;
1-Heptyl-4-[2(R,S)-hydroxy-2-(6-methoxy-4-quinolinyl)ethyl]piperidine;

[3S,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[2-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)ethyl]piperidine;
N-(6-Methoxy-4-quinoliny)-1-heptyl-4-piperidinecarboxamide;
(3Z)-(4R)-3-Ethylidene-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4S]-1-Cinnamyl-4-[2-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)-oxyethyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-(2-Acetoxyethyl)-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxy-quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-{2-hydroxyethyloxy}quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-(Ethylaminocarbonyloxyethyl)-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethenyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(R,S)-aminocarbonylamino-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(4-aminobutyloxy)-quinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(1-(R)- and 1-(S)-hydroxy-2-methoxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl) propyl] piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(1-(R)- and 1-(S)-hydroxy-2-methylthioethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl) propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-1-(5-Methylhexyl)-3-(1-(R)- and 1-(S)-2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(3-aminopropyl)oxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(2-aminoethyl)oxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R,4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(3-guanidinopropyl)oxyquinolin-4-yl) propyl] piperidine;
[3R, 4R]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[3-(6-(piperidine-4-yl) methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4S]-1-Heptyl-3-vinyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)-(R,R)-oxiran-2-ylmethyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4S]-1-Heptyl-4-[(2S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]-3-vinylpiperidine;
[3R, 4S]-1-Heptyl-3-vinyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)-(S,S)-oxiran-2-ylmethyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4S]-3-Ethyl-1-heptyl-4-[2-(S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
[3R, 4S]-1-Heptyl-4-[N-methyl-N-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)aminoethyl]-3-vinylpiperidine;

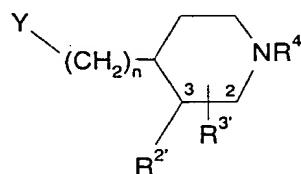
[3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(1-(R,S)-hydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
 [3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-(1-(R,S)-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
 [3R,4R]-1-Heptyl-3-hydroxymethyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
 [3R,4R]-1-(6-Methylheptyl)-3-(1-(R) and 1-(S),2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine;
 [3R, 4S]-1-Heptyl-4-[(2S)-hydroxy-3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]-3-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperidine;
 [3R, 4S]-1-Heptyl-3-aminocarbonyloxymethyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]piperidine and
 [3R, 4R]-1-Heptyl-4-[3-(6-methoxyquinolin-4-yl)propyl]-3-(2-carbamoyl)ethylpiperidine;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative of any of the foregoing compounds.

29. A process for preparing a compound of formula (IA), or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, according to claim 18 which process comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V):



(IV)



(V)

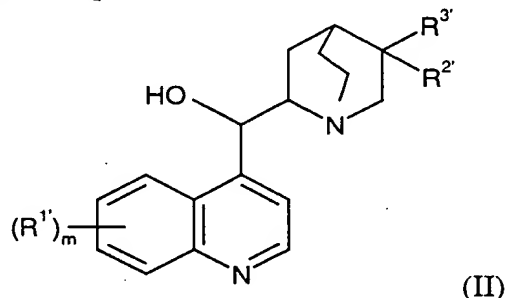
wherein m, n, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined in formula (I), and X and Y may be the following combinations:

- (i) X is M and Y is CH₂CO₂R^x
- (ii) X is CO₂RY and Y is CH₂CO₂R^x
- (iii) one of X and Y is CH=SPh₂ and the other is CHO
- (iv) X is CH₃ and Y is CHO
- (v) X is CH₃ and Y is CO₂R^x
- (vi) X is CH₂CO₂RY and Y is CO₂R^x
- (vii) X is CH=PR^z₃ and Y is CHO
- (viii) X is CHO and Y is CH=PR^z₃
- (ix) X is halogen and Y is CH=CH₂
- (x) one of X and Y is COW and the other is NHR^{11'} or NCO

- (xi) one of X and Y is $(CH_2)_p-V$ and the other is $(CH_2)_qNHR^{11'}$, $(CH_2)_qOH$, $(CH_2)_qSH$ or $(CH_2)_qSCOR^X$ where $p+q=1$
- (xii) one of X and Y is CHO and the other is $NHR^{11'}$
- (xiii) one of X and Y is OH and the other is $-CH=N_2$

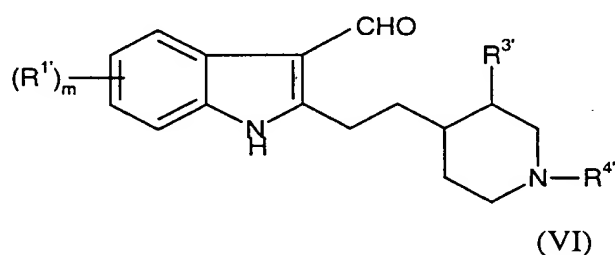
in which V and W are leaving groups, R^X and R^Y are (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^Z is aryl or (C_{1-6}) alkyl;

(b) rearranging a compound of formula (II):



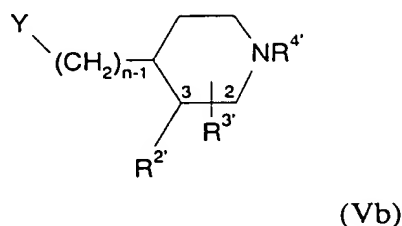
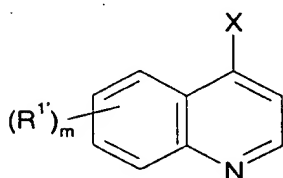
to give a compound of formula (III) which is a compound of formula (I) where R^3 is in the 3-position, n is 1, A-B is $COCH_2$ or disubstituted epoxide and R^2 is H, and thereafter optionally reducing to a compound of formula (VII) which is a compound of formula (I) where n is 1, A-B is $CHOHCH_2$ or CH_2CHOH and R^2 is H;

(c) photooxygenating a compound of formula (VI):



or

(d) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (Vb):

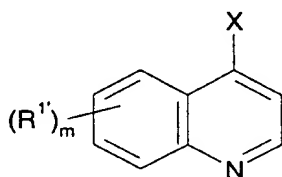


wherein m, n, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (I), X is $CH_2NHR^{11'}$ and Y is CHO or COW or X is CH_2OH and Y is $-CH=N_2$;

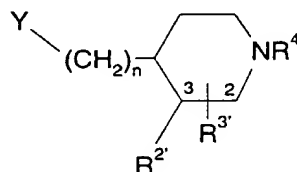
in which $R^{11'}$, $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$ and $R^{4'}$ are R^{11} , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 or groups convertible thereto, and thereafter optionally or as necessary converting $R^{11'}$, $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$ and $R^{4'}$ to R^{11} , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , converting A-B to other A-B, interconverting R^{11} , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 and forming a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

30. A process for preparing a compound of formula (IB), or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, according to claim 19 which process comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V):



(IV)



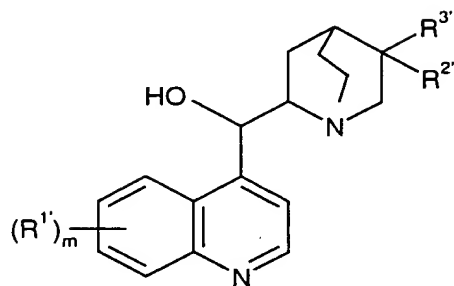
(V)

wherein m, n, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (I), and X and Y may be the following combinations:

- (i) X is M and Y is $CH_2CO_2R^X$
- (ii) X is CO_2RY and Y is $CH_2CO_2R^X$
- (iii) one of X and Y is $CH=SPh_2$ and the other is CHO
- (iv) X is CH_3 and Y is CHO
- (v) X is CH_3 and Y is CO_2R^X
- (vi) X is CH_2CO_2RY and Y is CO_2R^X
- (vii) X is $CH=PR^Z_3$ and Y is CHO
- (viii) X is CHO and Y is $CH=PR^Z_3$
- (ix) X is halogen and Y is $CH=CH_2$
- (x) one of X and Y is COW and the other is $NHR^{11'}$ or NCO
- (xi) one of X and Y is $(CH_2)_p-V$ and the other is $(CH_2)_qNHR^{11'}$, $(CH_2)_qOH$, $(CH_2)_qSH$ or $(CH_2)_qSCOR^X$ where $p+q=1$
- (xii) one of X and Y is CHO and the other is $NHR^{11'}$
- (xiii) one of X and Y is OH and the other is $-CH=N_2$

in which V and W are leaving groups, R^X and R^Y are (C_{1-6}) alkyl and R^Z is aryl or (C_{1-6}) alkyl;

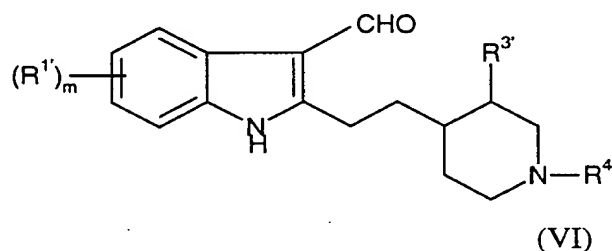
(b) rearranging a compound of formula (II):



(II)

to give a compound of formula (III) which is a compound of formula (I) where R^3 is in the 3-position, n is 1, A-B is COCH_2 or disubstituted epoxide and R^2 is H, and thereafter optionally reducing to a compound of formula (VII) which is a compound of formula (I) where n is 1, A-B is CHOHCH_2 or CH_2CHOH and R^2 is H;

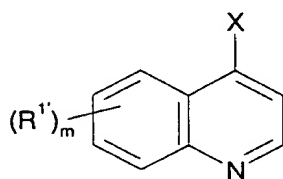
(c) photooxygenating a compound of formula (VI):



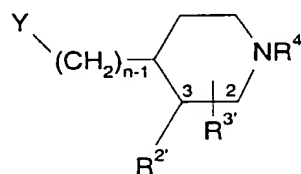
(VI)

or

(d) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (Vb):



(IV)

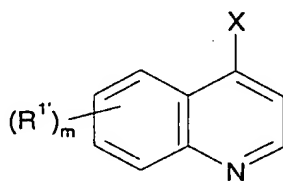


(Vb)

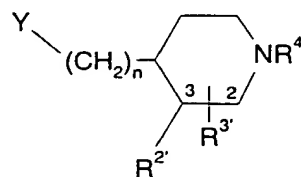
wherein m , n , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (I), X is $\text{CH}_2\text{NHR}^{11'}$ and Y is CHO or COW or X is CH_2OH and Y is $-\text{CH}=\text{N}_2$; in which $R^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are R^{11} , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 or groups convertible thereto, and thereafter optionally or as necessary converting $R^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 to R^{11} , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , converting A-B to other A-B, interconverting R^{11} , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 and forming a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

31. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, according to claim 28 which process comprises:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V):-



(IV)



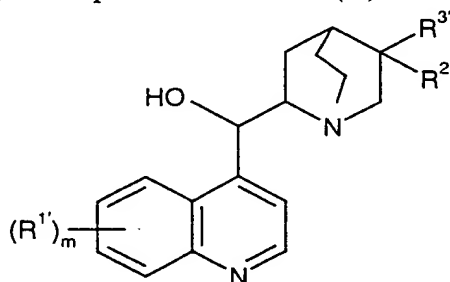
(V)

wherein m, n, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined in formula (I), and X and Y may be the following combinations:

- (i) X is M and Y is CH₂CO₂R^x
- (ii) X is CO₂R^y and Y is CH₂CO₂R^x
- (iii) one of X and Y is CH=SPh₂ and the other is CHO
- (iv) X is CH₃ and Y is CHO
- (v) X is CH₃ and Y is CO₂R^x
- (vi) X is CH₂CO₂R^y and Y is CO₂R^x
- (vii) X is CH=PR^z₃ and Y is CHO
- (viii) X is CHO and Y is CH=PR^z₃
- (ix) X is halogen and Y is CH=CH₂
- (x) one of X and Y is COW and the other is NHR^{11'} or NCO
- (xi) one of X and Y is (CH₂)_p-V and the other is (CH₂)_qNHR^{11'}, (CH₂)_qOH, (CH₂)_qSH or (CH₂)_qSCOR^x where p+q=1
- (xii) one of X and Y is CHO and the other is NHR^{11'}
- (xiii) one of X and Y is OH and the other is -CH=N₂

in which V and W are leaving groups, R^x and R^y are (C₁₋₆)alkyl and R^z is aryl or (C₁₋₆)alkyl;

(b) rearranging a compound of formula (II):

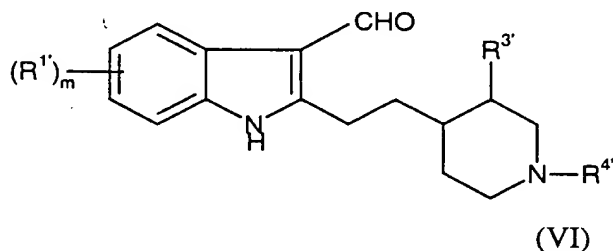


(II)

to give a compound of formula (III) which is a compound of formula (I) where R³ is in the 3-position, n is 1, A-B is COCH₂ or disubstituted epoxide and R² is H,

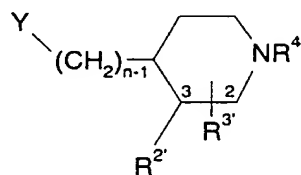
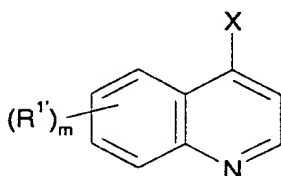
and thereafter optionally reducing to a compound of formula (VII) which is a compound of formula (I) where n is 1, A-B is CHOHCH_2 or CH_2CHOH and R^2 is H;

(c) photooxygenating a compound of formula (VI):



or

(d) reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (Vb):



wherein m, n, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are as defined in formula (I), X is $\text{CH}_2\text{NHR}^{11'}$ and Y is CHO or COOH or X is CH_2OH and Y is $-\text{CH}=\text{N}_2$; in which $\text{R}^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are $\text{R}^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 or groups convertible thereto, and thereafter optionally or as necessary converting $\text{R}^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 to $\text{R}^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , converting A-B to other A-B, interconverting $\text{R}^{11'}$, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 and forming a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

32. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 18, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 19, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 18, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.